

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03

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R 171332Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6361

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

DEA WASHDC

UNCLAS QUITO 5177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT IN COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKING
SCANDAL

REF: QUITO 4926

1. THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF INFORMATION ISSUED THE
FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE DATED JULY 15, 1975, AT 9 P.M.:
(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

2. BEGIN TEXT. "QUITO -- A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED TODAY BY THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATES THE FOLLOWING: THE NEWSPAPER EL
TELEGRAFO AND EL UNIVERSO OF GUAYAQUIL ON JULY 15
PUBLISHED DISPATCHES FROM BOGOTA FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
AGENCIES EFE AND AFP, WHICH STATE THAT A VAST ORGANIZED NET-
WORK OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS MAY BE OPERATING IN THE BORDER
ZONES OF ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA AND THAT IN THAT NETWORK
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES MAY BE IMPLI-
CATED. THIS ACCUSATION IS ATTRIBUTED BY AFP TO 'SOURCES OF
THE LOCAL SERVICES', WHEREAS EFE SIMPLY REFERS TO 'REPORTS
OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES'.

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3. "SINCE THIS EXPRESSION (REPORT) SERIOUSLY AFFECTS THE IMAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF ECUADOR, THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CONSIDERS IT ITS OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND ECUADOREAN AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) IT WAS ELEMENTS OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES, LOCATED AT BORDER GARRISONS, WHICH LOCATED THE PLANE, INFORMED THEIR SUPERIORS IMMEDIATELY OF THIS SITUATION AND ON THEIR ORDERS ESTABLISHED CONTROL AND GUARD OF THE SHIP AND ITS CREW, A GUARD WHICH WAS MAINTAINED UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES TOOK CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND INITIATED LEGAL ACTION.
- 2) IT WAS THESE SAME AUTHORITIES OF THE MILITARY GARRISONS WHO INVESTIGATED THE PLANE AND DISCOVERED THE COCAINE PASTE WHICH WAS BEING TRANSPORTED IN IT, A FACT WHICH ALSO WAS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO SUPERIOR AUTHORITIES.
- 3) THE SAME MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, CARRYING OUT THE ORDERS ISSUED, CARRIED THE CREW AND THE CONFISCATED DRUG TO TENA AND TO SHELL MERA, WHERE THEY WERE TURNED OVER TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES.
- 4) THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR INFORMED THE COUNTRY AMPLY AND OPPORTUNELY OF ALL THESE FACTS, AND AT THE SAME TIME INFORMED THE AUTHORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN RELATIONS SO THAT THE NECESSARY ACTION COULD BE TAKEN.

4. "LATER, THE COMMUNIQUE ADDS:

"THE ECUADOREAN POPULATION WILL BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES COMPLIED PROMPTLY WITH THE OBLIGATIONS THAT FELL TO THEM, REPORTING ON ALL RELATING TO THIS PLANE OF THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE, TO THEIR SUPERIORS AS WELL AS THE POPULATION IN GENERAL.

5. "HAD THERE BEEN PARTICIPATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE COUNTRY IN THIS ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO DETECT ATTITUDES OF CONCEALMENT, WHICH HAVE NOT EXISTED IN THE SLIGHTEST.

6. "IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT WHEN THE COLOMBIANS IMPLICATED IN THE CRIME OFFERED A MILLION SUQUES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAD CAPTURED THEM, THE BRIBERY WAS REJECTED INDIGNANTLY.

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7. "THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MAKES IT KNOWN TO THE COUNTRY THAT IT HAS DIRECTED ITSELF OFFICIALLY TO THE COLOMBIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR IN BOGOTA, DEMANDING THAT THEY MAKE KNOWN THE FACTS AND PROOFS THAT HAVE PERMITTED SUCH A CLAIM BY THE SECRET SERVICES THAT CAN WILL BE DEVICE TO DISTRACT ATTENTION AND THE SANCTION OF THE TRUE GUILTY".

BREWSTER

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